

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/655,175

Examiner

Toan C. To

Applicant(s)

TOMFORD ET AL.

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for continued examination filed on February 12, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Toan To
Patent Examiner
March 15, 2007

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

1. The request for continued examination filed on February 12, 2007 under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 10/655,175 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 1, the prior art reference either alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest a bracket for connecting an airbag module to a structural member of an automotive vehicle, comprising: a first end portion attaching said bracket to said airbag module; a second end portion attaching said bracket to said structural; and a third end portion disposed between said first end portion and said second at least one hole tuning the rigidity of said bracket to a desired rigidity; wherein said at least one hole is formed in said third end portion separate from said first end portion and said second end portion.

With respect to claim 5, the prior art reference either alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest a bracket for connecting an airbag module to a structural member of an automotive vehicle, comprising a first end portion attaching said bracket to said airbag module; a second end portion attaching said bracket to said structural member; and at least one hole tuning the rigidity of said bracket to a desired rigidity, wherein said at least one hole is separate from said first end portion and said second

Art Unit: 3616

end portion; wherein one of said first end portion and said second end portion comprises a slot and a slide plane, said slot being elongated between two slot ends, wherein said two slot ends are oriented in a perpendicular direction to said airbag module and said slide plane is oriented parallel to said two slot ends, said slot being attached adjacent the slot end disposed away from said airbag module, said slot and said slide plane thereby being slidable during impacts.

With respect to claim 10, the prior art reference either alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest a bracket for connecting an airbag module to a structural member of an automotive vehicle, comprising: a first end portion attaching said bracket to said airbag module; a second end portion attaching said bracket to said structural member; at least one hole is separate from said first end portion and said second end portion; a center portion disposed between said first end portion and said second end portion, wherein one of said first end portion and said second end portion is adjustable in two directions and one of said first end portion and said second end portion is adjustable in one direction, attachment of said bracket to said airbag module and said structural member thereby being adjustable with three degrees of freedom.

With respect to claim 14, the prior art reference either alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest a bracket for connecting an airbag module to a structural member of an automotive vehicle, comprising: a first end portion attaching said bracket to said airbag module; a second end portion attaching said bracket to said structural member; and at least one hole; wherein said first end portion comprises a slot, wherein said second end portion comprises a slot, said second end portion being oriented

Art Unit: 3616

perpendicular to said first end portion, wherein said at least one hole is separate from said first end portion and said second end portion; wherein said at least one hole is disposed on a third end portion, said third end portion being oriented perpendicular to said second end portion.

With respect to claim 15, the prior art reference either alone or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest a bracket for connecting an airbag module to a structural member of an automotive vehicle, comprising: two end portions and a center portion disposed between said two end portions, one of said end portions attaching said bracket to said airbag module thereby forming one attachment and one of said end portions attaching said bracket to said structural member thereby forming another attachment; wherein one of said end portions is adjustable in two directions and one of said end portions is adjustable in one direction, said attachments of said bracket to said airbag module and said structural member thereby being adjustable with three degrees of freedom.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan C. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6677. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).


Art Unit: 3616

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TTO

March 15, 2007


PAUL N. DICKSON 3/17/07
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600